

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:305

ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007

ACCIDENT IN COAL MINES

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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cases of accidents in public and private coal mines in the country are on the rise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the extent of loss of life and property suffered therein during the last three years and the current year, till date, year-wise; and
- (d) the details of the efforts and the action plan being prepared to check the accidents in coal mines?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 305 for reply on 5-9-2007.

(a) to (c) : The details of fatal accidents in coal mines of both public and private sector in the country as furnished by the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Ministry of Labour & Employment during in the last three years and the current year are given in the table below:

Year	Fatal accidents No. of accidents	No. of fatalities
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2004	87	96
2005	96	117#
2006@	79	138##
2007@	62	64

(till July
07)

@ figures for 2006 & 2007 are provisional

includes 14 fatalities in an accident at Central Saunda Colliery of Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL) on 15/6/2005

includes 50 fatalities in an accident at Bhatidih Colliery of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) on 6/9/2006

The fatality rate in terms of number of fatalities per million tonnes of production has come down from 6.66 in 1975 to 1.32 in 1985, 0.80 in 1995, and 0.32 in 2006.

The main reasons for the accidents are fall of roof and sides, accidents in rope haulage and conveyor system, fall of persons/objects, inundation, gas explosion etc. in underground mines and accidents in operation of dumpers and other machinery in opencast mines. The loss of property in case of accidents in coal mines is not being quantified separately since the equipment cost involved is insignificant in nature and mostly the equipment are depreciated.

(d) The management of the colliery is responsible for strict compliance of the prescribed safety standards in mines. While the coal companies take all care in observing safety legislation, they have also a stringent safety monitoring mechanism at corporate and local levels mainly through Internal Safety Organisations. The Workmen Inspectors are also deployed in each mine as per the statutory requirement and periodic reviews are held at colliery level, area level and corporate level involving workers representatives and management. Over and above, the regulatory authority the Directorate General of Mines Safety regularly undertakes safety inspection of the mines to enforce compliance of safety legislation. At national level the safety aspects of coal mines in the country are reviewed periodically by the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines under the Chairmanship of Minister of Coal. Government gives highest priority for safety of coal mines and miners.

To improve safety performance,, Coal companies are taking the following measures to reduce number of accidents:

Scientific roof support systems based on rock-mass-rating

Increased use of steel supports and roof bolts in place of timber supports

Avoiding exposure of workers to hazardous conditions by mechanisation of loading operations in underground mines through deployment of side discharge loaders (SDLs) and load haul dumpers (LHDs) etc. and replacing rope haulages with conveyor belts wherever feasible

Introduction of continuous miner technology and long wall technology in underground mines where ever feasible

Regular monitoring of mine environment for detecting inflammable and noxious gases using modern equipments like digital Multi-Gas Detectors etc.

Before every monsoon preventive measures against inundation are implemented through:

\$ Strengthening pumping arrangements

\$ Emergency plan for keeping vigil on situations

\$ Check co-relation survey to establish the barriers between waterlogged workings wherever danger of inundation exists

\$ Filling up the surface cracks

Implementation of Code of Practices for Heavy Earth Moving Machinery operators, maintenance staff & others

Thrust on training & retraining of supervisors and workmen including contractor's workers to increase safety awareness

Workers participation in safety management

Regular safety audit of mines and risk assessment

Safety monitoring through multi-disciplinary Internal Safety Organisation (ISO)